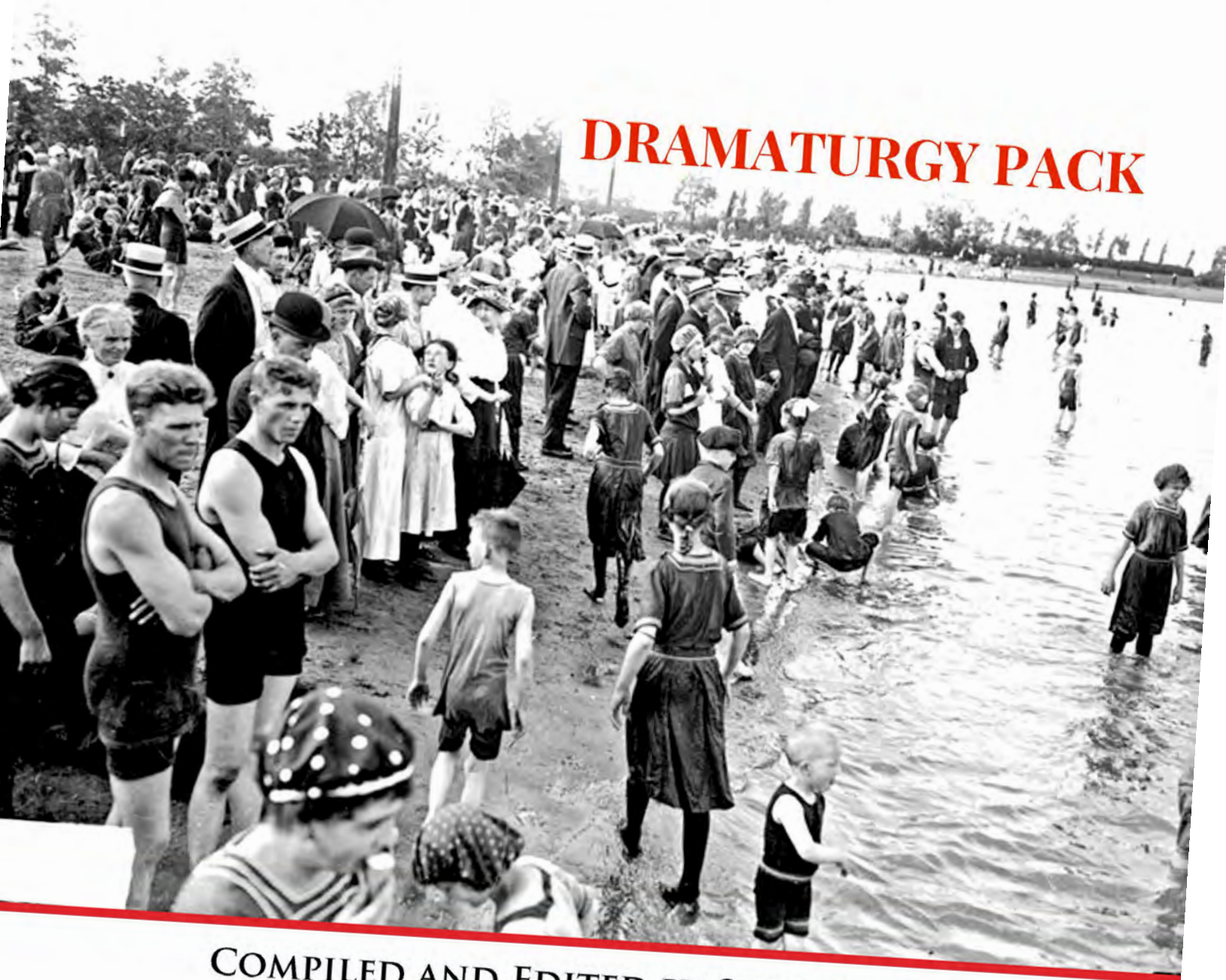


RED

SUMMER

DRAMATURGY PACK



COMPILED AND EDITED BY SHEPSU AAKHU
VERSION 1.1 10/25/21

THE GREAT WAR

1914-1918



The Great War, began in 1914 after the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria. His murder catapulted into a war across Europe that lasted until 1918. During the conflict, Germany, Austria-Hungary, Bulgaria and the Ottoman Empire (the Central Powers) fought against Great Britain, France, Russia, Italy, Romania, Japan and the United States (the Allied Powers).

Thanks to new military technologies and the horrors of trench warfare, The Great War (World War I) saw unprecedented levels of carnage and destruction. By the time the war was over and the Allied Powers claimed victory, more than 16 million people—soldiers and civilians alike—were dead.

Tensions had been brewing throughout Europe - especially in the troubled Balkan region of southeast Europe - for years before War actually broke out.

The assassination of Franz Ferdinand set off a rapidly escalating chain of events: Austria-Hungary, blamed the Serbian government for the attack and hoped to use the incident as justification for settling the question of Serbian nationalism once and for all.

Convinced that Austria-Hungary was readying for war, the Serbian government ordered the Serbian army to mobilize and appealed to Russia for assistance. On July 28, Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia, and the tenuous peace between Europe's great powers quickly collapsed.

THREE YEARS LATER...

AMERICA ENTERS THE WAR

At the outbreak of fighting in 1914, the United States remained on the sidelines of the War, adopting the policy of neutrality favored by President Woodrow Wilson, while continuing to engage in commerce and shipping with European countries on both sides of the conflict.

Neutrality, however, was increasing difficult to maintain in the face of Germany's unchecked submarine aggression against neutral ships, including those carrying passengers. In 1915, Germany declared the waters surrounding the British Isles to be a war zone, and German U-boats sunk several commercial and passenger vessels, including some U.S. ships.

Widespread protest over the U-boat sinking of the British ocean liner Lusitania - traveling from New York to Liverpool, England with hundreds of American passengers onboard - in May 1915 - helped turn the tide of American public opinion against Germany. By February 1917, Congress passed a \$250 million arms appropriations bill intended to make the United States ready for war.

Germany sunk four more U.S. merchant ships the following month, and on April 2 Woodrow Wilson appeared before Congress and called for a declaration of war against Germany. ...And with that the US entered the great War ending her de-facto foreign policy of isolationism.



NEGROES IN...

THE GREAT WAR

THE 92ND AND 93RD DIVISIONS

By the time the War began, there were four all-Black regiments - the 24th and 25th Infantry and the 9th and 10th Cavalry. These regiments were comprised of celebrated soldiers who fought in the Spanish-American War and American-Indian Wars but they were not deployed for overseas combat in the Great War. Negroes serving beside white soldiers on the front in Europe was inconceivable to the U.S. military. Instead, the first Negro troops deployed overseas served in segregated labor battalions, restricted to menial roles in the Army and Navy, and they were shutout of the Marines, entirely.

Their duties mostly included ship loading, supply transport from train depots, bases and ports, digging trenches, cooking and maintenance, removing barbed wire and inoperable equipment, and burying soldiers.

Facing criticism from the Black community and civil rights organizations for its quotas and treatment of Negro soldiers, the military formed two Negro combat units in 1917, the 92nd and 93rd Divisions. Inadequately trained in the US, the divisions fared differently in the war. The 92nd faced criticism for their performance in the Meuse-Argonne campaign in September 1918. The 93rd Division, however, had more success. With dwindling armies, France asked America for reinforcements, and Gen. Pershing, sent regiments from the 93 Division.

The 93 Division's, 369 regiment, nicknamed the Harlem Hellfighters, fought so gallantly, with a total of 191 days on the front lines, longer than any AEF regiment, that France awarded them the Croix de Guerre for their heroism. More than 350,000 Negro soldiers served in the War in various capacities.



NEWER-DEADLIER WAYS... TO DIE



MACHINE GUNS

WAR is remarkably good at finding new ways to maim and kill...

Machine guns had a sustained fire of 450–600 rounds per min., cutting down enemy troops like a scythe cutting wheat. Contrary to popular belief, machine guns were not the most lethal weapon of the War. That dubious distinction goes to...

Artillery with its increased lethality, was the century's most significant leap in weapons tech — killing more people than any other weapon. Some giant guns could hurl projectiles so far that crews had to account for the rotation of the earth when plotting their fire. Among smaller field guns, the French 75mm cannon developed a reputation with their German opponents as the “*Devil Gun*.” French commanders claimed it won them the war.

TANKS

The first large-scale tank offensive at the Battle of Cambrai (France), gains little ground, but changes the course of modern warfare with the use of tank brigades and new artillery methods.

For frontline troops and the civilians at home, large scale death has been introduced via industrialization. Warfare that was traditionally fought with horses, rifles, and bayonets is now fought with weapons of mass destruction.

Terror, always a staple of human conflict, has now been industrialized as well. “*Shell Shocked*” is the term of the age — struggling to describe an explosion in what we now call *Post Traumatic Stress Disorder* (PTSD).



POISON GAS

On April 22, 1915, the Germans launched the 2nd Battle of Ypres. After the shelling, the Allied defense waited for the German troops but instead were thrown into panic as chlorine gas wafted across “*no-man's land*” into their trenches. The Germans targeted 4 miles of front with wind-blown poison gas and decimated two divisions of French and Algerian colonial troops.

France and Britain soon developed chemical weapons and gas masks. With the Germans taking the lead, extensive numbers of poison projectiles polluted trenches. Mustard gas, introduced by the Germans in 1917, blistered the skin, eyes, and lungs, and killed thousands. Defenses against poison gas usually kept pace, and both sides employed sophisticated gas masks and protective gear that essentially dramatically negated the strategic importance of chemical weapons.

The psychological terror that “gas” brought to the Great War was debilitating in ways that would take decades to comprehend.

THE BATTLES



THE WESTERN FRONT

2ND BATTLE OF THE SOMME

MAR. 21 - APR. 5, 1918

On March 21, a major offensive against Allied positions in the Somme River region of France began with five hours of bombardment from more than 9,000 pieces of German artillery. The poorly prepared British Fifth Army was rapidly overwhelmed and forced into retreat.

For a week, the Germans pushed toward Paris, shelling the city from a distance of 80 miles with their "Big Bertha" cannons. However, the poorly supplied German troops soon became exhausted, and the Allies halted the German advance as French artillery knocked out the German guns besieging Paris.

On April 2, U.S. General John Pershing sent American troops down into the trenches to help defend Paris and repulse the German offensive. It was the first major deployment of U.S. troops in the War. Several thousand American troops fought alongside the British and French in the Second Battle of Somme.

By the time the offensive ended, the Germans advanced 40 miles, inflicted 200,000 casualties, captured 70,000 prisoners and more than 1,000 Allied guns. However, the Germans suffered nearly as many casualties as their enemies and lacked the fresh reserves and supply boost the Allies enjoyed following the American entrance into the fighting.



BATTLES OF MEUSE-ARGONNE

SEPT. 26 - NOV. 11, 1918

More than 1 million Americans take part in the Battles - in France's dense Forest of Argonne and along the Meuse River, making it the AEF's biggest War operation - 26,000 Americans dead, with 120,000-plus casualties - the deadliest battle in U.S. history. Joined by the French and aided by tanks and U.S. airplanes, the Allies capture tens of thousands of German prisoners and, after four months, Germany finally cedes. At 5:30 am Sept. 26, after a 6-hour-long bombardment, Allied tanks, followed by infantry, advance on German positions. 37 French and American divisions, battled to cut off the German 2nd Army. Gen. John J. Pershing took command of the offensive. The AEF was to play the main attacking role, in what would be the largest American-run offensive of the war.

The 1st bombardment, using mustard gas and phosgene shells, killed 278 German soldiers and incapacitated more than 10,000. The infantry advance began the next morning, supported by tanks and aircraft. By nightfall, they had taken 33,000 prisoners and advanced 6 miles.

Pershing ended the offensive Sept. 30 - only to be renewed four days later. Demoralized and plagued by the *Spanish Flu*, German troops managed to hold on another month. The general armistice was announced on Nov. 11, bringing the Great War to a close.

For 6 hours after the scheduled "end of hostilities," Pershing order his troops (often Negro) "up and over." Was this an attempt to further bloody the Germans, or just as likely - a message to the Negro about his value? Historians debate his reasoning, but the result is incontrovertible. Pershing ordered the needless charges that thinned his ranks of men he felt unworthy of service. 3000 soldiers died in the final hours of fighting.



To Prevent Influenza!

Do not take any person's breath.
Keep the mouth and teeth clean.
Avoid those that cough and sneeze.
Don't visit poorly ventilated places.
Keep warm, get fresh air and sunshine.
Don't use common drinking cups, towels, etc.
Cover your mouth when you cough and sneeze.
Avoid Worry, Fear and Fatigue.
Stay at home if you have a cold.
Walk to your work or office.
In sick rooms wear a gauze mask like in illustration.

THE SPANISH FLU

The pandemic of 1918 infected an estimated 500 million people worldwide—about one-third of the planet's population—and killed an estimated 20-50 million victims, including 675,000 Americans. That's more than all of the soldiers and civilians killed during The Great War combined. The 1918 flu was first observed in Europe, the U. S. and parts of Asia before swiftly spreading around the world. At the time, there were no effective drugs or vaccines to treat this killer strain. Citizens were ordered to wear masks, schools, theaters and businesses were shuttered and bodies piled up in makeshift morgues before the virus ended its deadly global march.

The first wave of the 1918 pandemic hit in spring and was generally mild. The sick, experienced typical flu symptoms - chills, fever and fatigue, and usually recovered after several days. A second, highly contagious wave returned in the fall of that same year. Victims died within hours or days of developing symptoms, their skin turning blue and their lungs filling with fluid that caused them to suffocate. In just one year, 1918, the average life expectancy in America plummeted by a dozen years.

While the global pandemic lasted for two years, a significant number of deaths were packed into three especially cruel months in the fall of 1918. Historians now believe that the severity of the Spanish flu's "second wave" was caused by a mutated virus spread by wartime troop movements. One of the first registered cases of the "Spanish Flu" was Albert Gitchell, a U.S. Army cook at Camp Funston in Kansas, who was hospitalized with a 104-degree fever. The virus spread quickly through the Army installation, home to 54,000 troops. By the end of the month, 1,100 troops had been hospitalized and 38 had died after developing pneumonia.

As U.S. troops deployed en masse for the war in Europe, they carried the "Spanish Flu" with them. Throughout April and May of 1918, the virus spread like wildfire through England, France, Spain and Italy. An estimated three-quarters of the French military was infected in the spring of 1918 and as many as half of British troops.

By the summer of 1919, the flu pandemic came to an end, as those that were infected either died or developed immunity.



THE GREAT MIGRATION



From 1900 to 1960, an estimated five million blacks migrated from the South.

Within the black community, there had been constant migration since the end of the nineteenth century. Much of that migration had taken place within the South as Blacks migrated from place to place trying to make a decent living. In the 20th century, Blacks started to move to the North as the train provided easy

access to Chicago and other Northern cities. There were other factors as well that contributed to this *Great Southern Exodus*. American Immigration patterns could not keep pace with the growth of American Industry: The Great War halted immigration and to make matters worse it sapped many of the remaining immigrant workers as they abandoned the mills in order to take up arms in the old country - this made the labor crisis dire enough for industry to become more welcoming to the Negro. Additionally, the sharecroppers life – always hard – became unbearable as new pests such as the boll weevil decimated southern cash crops and left these farmers with no apparent means of supporting their families. Hundreds of thousands of blacks migrated from the South to Chicago and other cities of the North.

The CHICAGO DEFENDER

the most influential Black newspaper, encouraged blacks to leave. The paper held a vision of the North as the land of freedom, a dream that has been in the hearts of Black men and women since slavery time -- many referred to the North as "*The Promised Land*." Richard Wright remembered how the North kept hope alive during the dark days of his childhood in the deep South. "*The North symbolized to me all that I had not felt or seen; it had no relation to what actually existed. Yet by imagining a place where everything is possible, it kept hope alive inside of me.*"

Southern whites feared the migration would deprive them of Black labor. Blacks saw the exodus as a fulfillment of God's promise. A Birmingham minister offered the following prayer to his congregation: "*We feel and believe that this great Exodus is God's hand and plan. In a mysterious way God is moving upon the hearts of our people to go where He has prepared for them.*"

Among those who migrated were the most creative people in the South. Jazz musicians came from New Orleans to play in Chicago, Kansas City,

and New York. Blues players came from the Delta.



The NAACP

welcomed writers and poets like writer Zora Neale Hurston, poet Langston Hughes, and sculptor Augusta Savage. They, along with poet Countee Cullen and other black artists, created a cultural explosion known as the "*Harlem Renaissance*." The migration slowed down during the Depression in the 1930s but picked up speed when World War II began. Again jobs opened up in factories. At the same time, mechanization came to the cotton fields, displacing many black farmers. Between the period 1910 and 1970, an estimated six million blacks migrated from the South.



THE BLACKBELT

THE BLACK METROPOLIS | BRONZEVILLE NIGGATOWN | DARKIETOWN

From the turn of the twentieth century until after World War II, the term "*Black Belt*" was commonly used to identify the predominately Negro (African - American) community on Chicago's South Side. Originally a narrow corridor extending from 22nd to 31st Streets along State Street, Chicago's South Side African American community expanded over the century until it stretched from 39th to 95th streets, the Dan Ryan Expressway to Lake Michigan.

The "*Black community*" was a new thing in the Chicago of 1919. While a few had always lived in the area, the first wave of the Great Migration only happened during the Great War. Between 1916 and 1918, about 50,000 blacks escaped from the South in search of employment and human dignity.

In many cases the word "*escape*" can be taken literally. Most were heavily indebted sharecroppers who were forced to sneak away in the middle of the night to avoid arrest or worse. They arrived in Chicago with nothing. Rent was expensive for the quality of the housing.

They lived in a narrow stretch of real estate down the center of the South Side, in what was known as the Black Belt. As they grew in numbers, their housing situation became increasingly overcrowded. To the west, Irish gangs enforced Wentworth Avenue as Chicago's "*color line*," while to the east they were hemmed in by Lake Michigan.

At times, the new arrivals mixed uneasily with the established black community. The established Chicago community was more prosperous, middle-class, and educated. The new arrivals from the South shared none of those traits. Some of the older residents complained that the new migrants "*brought discrimination with them*" as their visibility increased, and as they came to be perceived by whites as competitors in the cutthroat job markets.

A primary means of employment were the stockyards on the southwest side. Others worked in the numerous steel and machinery shops. They were far more likely to be non-union, and many worked for lower wages than the other employees. As such they were despised by the union members. Historically they had been hired as strikebreakers -- in 1904 at the stockyards, and in 1905 as teamsters for instance, and more recently in myriad smaller industries. Through these incidents, the words "Negro" and "scab" became synonymous in many Chicago neighborhoods. Black workers didn't want to unionize in large part because their jobs were the most tenuous.

When layoffs came in 1919, they fell disproportionately on the Black community. By the end of the spring about 20% of them were unemployed in Chicago, and the rest feared that number would be higher if they expressed sympathy for the labor unions.



At the same time, companies like Armour, Swift, and Sears treated their Black workers better than they had been treated by the unions or by any other group of white men in their life. These companies also financed Black organizations and charities, which influenced the prominent citizens of that community to form a favorable impression. In the meantime, the unions vacillated between half-hearted overtures and racial exclusion and violence.

...BY DAN BRYAN



The Rise of the New Negro



During the first two decades of the 20th century, rampant racial injustices, led by weekly reports of grisly lynchings, gave strong impetus to protest writing. From the editor's desk of the *Colored American Magazine*, Pauline E. Hopkins wrote novels, short stories, editorials, and social commentary in the early 1900s that attempted to revive the fervor of the anti-slavery era. The founding of the NAACP in 1909 put Du Bois in charge of its organ, *The Crisis*, which, as its editor from 1910 to 1934, he fashioned into the most widely read Black magazine of its time. In 1912 future NAACP leader James Weldon Johnson, poet, diplomat, and journalist, published anonymously *The Autobiography of an Ex-Colored Man*, a psychological novel that employed the theme of passing for white to explore the double consciousness of its protagonist with a dispassionate objectivity unattempted in Black fiction up to that time. By the time the U.S. entered the Great War in 1917, social attitudes were changing in Black America. Passivity and accommodation in the face of white aggression - always a myth more alive in the minds of white America, than the hearts of Blacks - was now openly rejected in public spaces. There was a new and open militancy in the offing ...in time it would bear the moniker THE NEW NEGRO.

Easter Rising

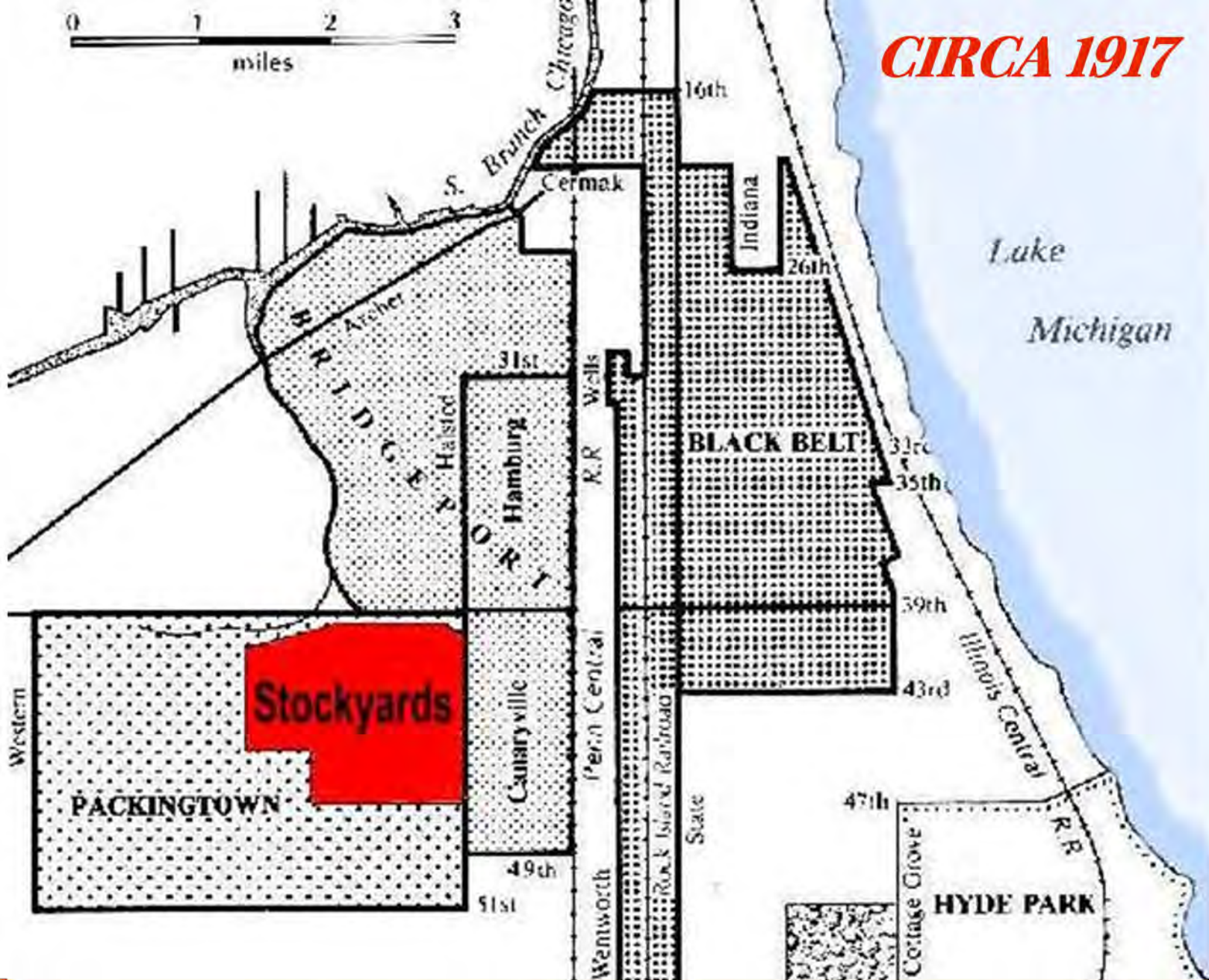


After nearly eight centuries under forced British rule, the late 1800s brought a wave of Irish nationalism. During this time, most Irish nationalists supported the *Home Rule Movement*, which sought to establish an independent domestic Irish parliament within the U.K. The plan had many detractors, most notably Republicans: Irish nationalists calling for a full departure from England, and Unionists: primarily Protestant loyalists who wanted to maintain British rule. In 1912, Parliament approved *Home Rule* to begin in 1914. When the War broke out, *Home Rule* was postponed for the duration of the conflict.

Irish Republicans refused to participate in what they saw as an imperial conflict. By 1916, The Military Council of the Irish Republican Brotherhood (IRB) and their military arm, The Irish Volunteers, were coordinating a rebellion with The Irish Citizen Army (ICA), a well-organized paramilitary socialist group that protected trade union workers during strikes. On Monday, April 24, 1916, 1,200 Irish Republican soldiers, armed mostly with rifles, began to take over strategic sites in Dublin and proclaimed the new Irish Republic. British reinforcements arrived, overwhelming the republicans with 16,000 men and heavy artillery.

5 days of shooting and bombing in Dublin resulted in 500 deaths, plus 3,000 injuries - mostly Irish civilians. To prevent further casualties, the rebels surrendered on Saturday, April 29, 1916. Most *Rising* organizers, were immediately tried without a defense and executed. Sympathy rose for the rebels throughout Ireland; the executions transformed them into martyrs. When the British imposed a military draft in Ireland in 1918, they lost any remaining good will in Ireland. That December, the separatist party, Sinn Féin, won 73 of Ireland's 105 seats. They proclaimed themselves Dáil Éireann (First Dáil), the parliament of an independent Ireland.

CIRCA 1917



CHICAGO'S HOT - ZONE

The Irish were centered on the South Side, to the north and east of the stockyards. Their neighborhoods were *Bridgeport* and *Canaryville*. They had lived in these neighborhoods for decades, since the great waves of immigration started in the 1800s. As the Irish rose to become *The Political Class* of the city - controlling large segments of government services, contracting and policing — they felt increasingly emboldened to dictate terms to *Ethnics* and Blacks near their borders.

Blacks were held in the *Black Belt* by restrictive covenants and brutal socio-political reprisals—left with little room to expand as rural migrants flooded into the area by the tens of thousands. Blacks had to cross Bridgeport to get to the stockyards. The Irish had to cross the Black Belt to get to the lakefront beaches. Their respective territories were separated by the width of the Rock Island Railroad line and Wentworth Ave. One hot summer - the tender box finally exploded.

SITTING ON A POWDER KEG

...BY DAN BRYAN

1919 was not a good year for the overall social health of America or Chicago. With the end of the Great War and its demobilization, 2.5 million veterans were discharged within a six month period. Unemployment, labor strife, and fears of radicalism became part of the landscape.

In Chicago, the economic issues played out in the stockyards. To get to their jobs, thousands of blacks had to commute across the Irish neighborhoods, and were subject to assault and intimidation in transit. Where there had been a labor shortage just a couple years previously, there now came layoffs. This made the different Ethnic groups (re: White) of Chicago very uneasy with each other. At the stockyards, a huge strike was being planned behind the scenes. Most ethnic groups feared that the Blacks would undermine it by refusing to participate.

Additionally, the mayoral election of 1919 had returned a narrow win for the Republican -- William Hale Thompson. The margin of 21,000 votes was dwarfed by the number of new arrivals from the South. To the Irish Democrats, this was yet another source of their resentments.

For their part, the Black community had been victim to numerous home bombings. Starting in 1917, any home occupied by Blacks that was near the edge of the neighborhood, or across the "color line," was at high risk of being firebombed. 25 homes were bombed in 1918 - and a 6 year old girl was killed early in 1919. The police were not helpful in prosecuting these cases.

On June 21, an incident occurred that drove home to the Black community how little protection they had from the police. Two unarmed Black men were attacked and killed by the Irish (likely from Ragen's Colts) on "no pretext whatsoever" - said witnesses. The police refused to make any arrests. Rumors and outrage spread almost instantly. By now the Black Belt contained thousands of veterans from the War, who had expected better upon their return than unemployment and racial violence. The "New Negro," as he was called, was appalled by the negligence of the system. More importantly, he was prepared to do something about it. *The Chicago Defender* and *The Whip* gave up on the police, and began to advocate militant self-defense by the summer of 1919.



"The Whip informs you, the whites, that the compromising peace-at-any-price Negro is rapidly passing into the scrap heap of yesterday and being supplanted by a fearless, intelligent Negro who recognizes no compromise but who demands absolute justice and fair play."

In the weeks after this incident, there was talk on both sides of confrontations and trouble, and a general edge to the ambience. The peril of rioting was ready to strike at any moment. Only the ultimate catalyst was in doubt.

...That arrived with the stoning of Eugene Williams.





THE SUMMER OF 1919

During the summer and fall of 1919 race riots exploded in a number of cities in both the North and South. The three most violent episodes occurred in Chicago, Washington, D.C., and Elaine, Arkansas. On the afternoon of July 27, 1919, a stone-throwing melee between blacks and whites began after a black youth mistakenly swam into territory claimed by whites off the 29th Street beach in Chicago. Amidst the mayhem, Eugene Williams, a black youth, drowned. When a white police officer refused to arrest the white men involved in the death, and instead arrested a black man, racial tensions escalated. Fighting broke out between gangs and mobs of both races. Violence escalated with each incident, and for 13 days Chicago was in a state of turmoil. By the time the riot ended, 23 blacks and 15 whites were dead, 537 injured, and 1,000 black families were left homeless.

The Chicago riot was part of a national racial frenzy of clashes, massacres, and lynchings throughout the North and the South. All of the incidents were initiated by whites. In Washington, D.C., from July 19 to 23, four whites and two blacks were killed; whites were astonished that blacks dared to fight back. The NEW YORK TIMES lamented the new black militancy: *"There had been no trouble with the Negro before the war when most admitted the superiority of the white race."*

A "Southern black woman," as she identified herself, wrote a letter to THE CRISIS, praising Blacks for fighting back. *"The Washington riot gave me a thrill that comes once in a life time ... at last our men had stood up like men. ... I stood up alone in my room ... and exclaimed aloud, 'Oh I thank God, thank God.' The pent up horror, grief and humiliation of a life time -- half a century -- was being stripped from me."*

From October 1-3, a race war exploded in Phillips County, Arkansas. On the night of September 30, a small group of black men and women were gathering a rural church to organize a sharecroppers' and tenant farmers' union -- the Progressive Farmers and Household Union of America. When two white law-enforcement officers arrived at the church, one later claiming they were looking for a bootlegger, shots were exchanged. One white officer was killed and the other wounded. As word of the shootings spread throughout the county, the local sheriff sent out a call for men *"to hunt Mr. Nigger in his lair."*

The call went out to Mississippi to come to the aid of white men in Phillips County. Hundreds of armed men jumped into trains, trucks, and cars and, crossing into Arkansas, fired out of windows at every black they saw. Some said that if it was black and moving, it was target practice. Frank Moore, one of the farmers at the church, saw the massacre as it unfolded: *"The whites sent word that they was comin down here and kill every nigger they found. There were 300 or 400 more white men with guns, shooting and killing women and children."* Soldiers from the United States Army eventually restored order, although some claimed the military participated in the killings. By the time the shooting ended, 25 blacks and five whites were listed as officially dead. Many blacks believed that perhaps as many as 200 were killed, their bodies dumped in the Mississippi River or left to rot in the canebrake. The white establishment charged that blacks had formed a secret conspiracy to rise up and overthrow the white planters, take their land and rape their women. No evidence was ever produced to substantiate the charge.



Way Off the Streets,
Let the Law Settle It

THE Chicago Defender

WORLD'S GREATEST WEEKLY

Foolish Talk Is No
Good Now. Stop It

PL. XIV NO. 31. ☆☆ SATURDAY CHICAGO, AUGUST 2, 1919 SATURDAY PRICE FIVE CENTS

RIOT SWEEPS CHICAGO

GHASTLY DEEDS OF RACE RIOTERS TOLD

LIST OF SLAIN IN-
FOUR DAYS' RIOTING

Gun Battles and Fighting in Streets Keep the City in an Uproar ...BY DAN BRYAN

It was a typically hot summer and on Sunday, July 27th, the segregated beaches were packed.

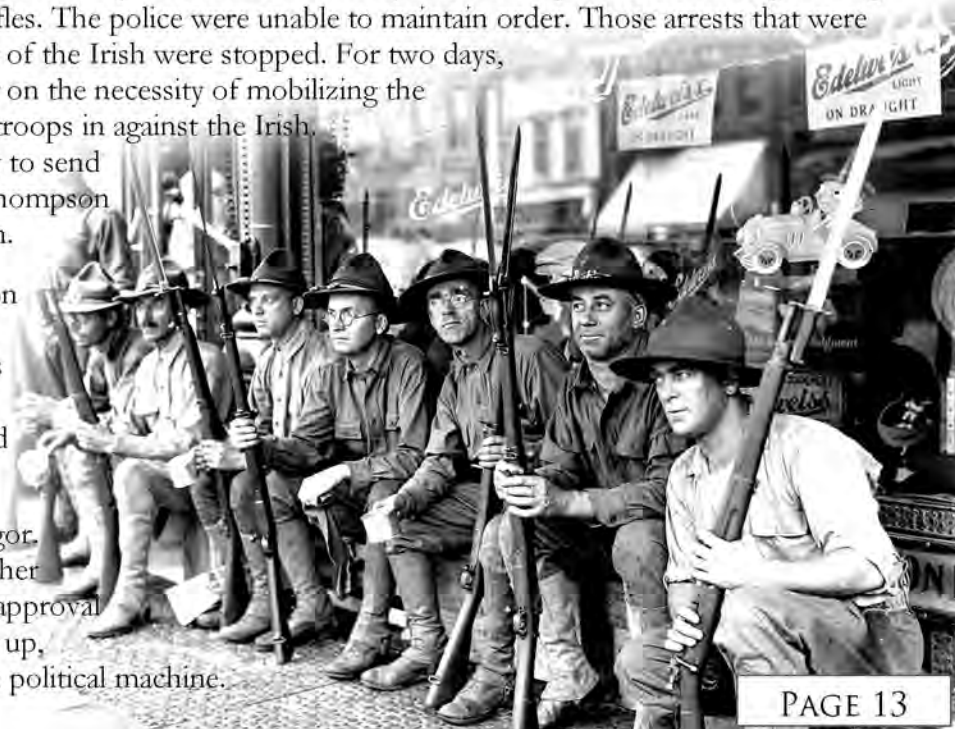
Feelings were inflamed that afternoon when a group of Blacks tried to make use of the 29th St. Beach. There was a big scuffle with several assaults on both sides, before the group of Blacks was driven away. It wasn't a particularly noteworthy event, but it did heighten the volatile "racial atmosphere" on the beaches. Later, another group of Black teens drifted by raft, over the "color line" into 29th St. waters. Rocks and bricks flew at them—**Eugene Williams**, was hit squarely in the forehead. He dropped into 15 feet of water and drowned. Again a crowd of blacks formed - but a policeman refused to arrest the perpetrators, but did arrest another black man involved in the scuffling of that day. When a wagon arrived to take the black man into custody, another fight broke. A Black man fired at the police with a revolver, and he was shot to death.

It did not take long for the Irish athletic clubs to hear about the 29th Street incident -- in versions that were twisted around to the rhetoric of a black invasion. It was known that Blacks were gathering in anger in the Black Belt, and the athletic clubs went on a preemptive offensive that Sunday night. **John Mills** boarded an eastbound streetcar on 47th St. A few blocks later, the car was disengaged from its line by a band of "hoodlums." Mills and five other black men jumped from the car and ran as fast they could. Mills was caught and beaten to death on the streets. Several hundred whites stood on the sidewalk and cheered the proceedings, including some women and children. Whites who ventured into the Black Belt were also at risk. A peddler named **Casmero Lazeroni** steered his goods onto 36th and State. Obviously he underestimated the severity of the situation - Blacks threw stones and bricks at him until his wagon stopped—then dragged him into the street and stabbed him to death.

The Black community - bunkered in their own neighborhood - defended it mercilessly. Some who went to work on Monday were pulled off of trolley cars and beaten or stabbed to death. By Tuesday, they almost unanimously stayed away from their jobs -- since the commute required them to ride directly through the Irish neighborhoods. Groups of Irish gangsters drove through the Black Belt and fired at or assaulted any blacks they saw, in one of history's first examples of the "drive-by shooting." Black men sniped at these cars with revolvers and rifles. The police were unable to maintain order. Those arrests that were made were overwhelmingly of the blacks -- very few of the Irish were stopped. For two days, the mayor and the governor sparred with each other on the necessity of mobilizing the state militia. Neither wanted to be the first to order troops in against the Irish. Governor Lowden told the papers that he was ready to send in troops as soon as the Mayor approved it, while Thompson reiterated that the responsibility rested with Lowden.

Eventually, Thousands of state militia were posted on the "color line" in the south side, ordered to restrict access to the area, and given very strong instructions to take the Irish gangs seriously. For several days, troops escorted the trolley lines and remained posted on site, to defuse any violence.

The Chicago press took the side of the Irish with vigor. But they rioted not as frenzied individuals, but together in their "athletic clubs," which operated with the tacit approval of political and community leaders. When they grew up, members of these clubs formed the core of the Irish political machine.





SHAPING WHITE IDENTITY

RACISM, ETHNICITY, AND WHITE IDENTITY

BY DAVID R. ROEDIGER

If the grand jury investigating the white-on-black violence during the 1919 race riot in Chicago is to be believed, Irish American gangs played a central role in attempting to extend the bloodshed. Members of *Ragen's Colts*, one of the leading gangs, disguised themselves in blackface in order to set fire to Polish and Lithuanian neighborhoods in the *Back of the Yards* area. Their hope was to draw the immigrant population into bloody reprisals against Blacks. Two years later, *Ragen's Colts* again mounted the barricades, hanging in effigy a Ku Klux Klansman in the opening salvo of a successful campaign to isolate and drive from Chicago an organization known for violence against southern Blacks, but now focused on Roman Catholics and Jews as threats to American culture and society. In that incarnation, the *Colts* battled the forces of intolerance. Thus *Ragen's Colts* symbolized the bizarre extremes of racial intolerance and terror in early-twentieth-century Chicago.

The two faces of *Ragen's Colts* will almost inevitably strike contemporary readers as contradictory: at one moment deceptive, vile, and exclusionary and at the next campaigning against icons of hatred. However, such contradictions go to the heart of Chicago's history. In the city's past and present, two images contend. One emphasizes the astonishing cultural variety and vibrant cultural exchanges nourished in an atmosphere of tolerance. The other stresses how quickly and ruthlessly racial lines have been or can be drawn in the city sometimes called the nation's "most segregated," one that helped to teach Martin Luther King about a racism he had not encountered in the South.

To move beyond explaining away such contradictions as simply "paradoxes" requires coming to grips with the chilling extent to which processes of racial exclusion were part and parcel of building increasingly inclusive unities among European immigrants as *white* Americans. During the 1919 race riot, the blackface arson came in response to the lack of interest among Eastern European immigrants in brutalizing Blacks. Some Poles argued that the riot was a conflict between blacks and whites, with Poles abstaining because they belonged to neither group. Indeed the Poles and Lithuanians might well have hated each other more than either group hated Blacks. Thus the racially disguised terror committed by the Irish American gang members was not only an act of racism. It was, perversely, also an act of inclusion, reaching out to newer Roman Catholic immigrants who did not have a secure place in U.S. systems of racial privilege and who did not sufficiently identify and act as whites. In that sense the arson served as a fit prelude to militant, but not interracial, protest against the Klan's attempts to restrict the white race to Protestant Anglo-Saxondom.

In this period, inclusion in the ranks of *White America* is not a forgone conclusion for European immigrants. That process was not cemented until the 1960's.

Some would argue that inclusion is still not cemented for many Eastern Europeans (e.g. Turkey, Iran, the Balkan States, and many corners of the former Soviet Union.)



RAGEN'S COLTS

ATHLETIC CLUB - STREET GANG -

POLITICAL ORGANIZATION - OR IRISH MAFIA?

In Chicago, Al Capone's toughest chore was making peace with Irish gangsters. He was far more successful with Jews, Poles and Blacks. Certainly there were times when he felt that Ragen's Colts were a lost cause. They were at the pinnacle of their power in the first two decades of the century, dominating the South Side around the stockyards. Described as racists, jingoists, political sluggers, bootleggers and murderers, they, like many other gangs in early Chicago, started out as a baseball team. Frank Ragen, the star pitcher, was also the star political operator of the outfit - officially called "*Ragen's Athletic and Benevolent Association*." Ragen soon proved invaluable to the Democratic Party, offering Colts firepower to campaigns. Many members of the city council and state legislature owed their election to the Colts. "*When we dropped into a polling place,*" one Colt bragged, "*everybody else dropped out.*"

In 1902 the gang numbered 160. Six years later it's motto was, "*Hit Me and You Hit 2000.*" Their ranks swelled with aldermen, sheriffs, police brass, country treasurers and political officeholders - Ragen became a city commissioner. The most notorious members were accomplished criminals - *Gunner* McPadden with a list of homicides so large that no one, McPadden included, could make an accurate count; *Dynamite* Brooks, a saloon keeper with the reputation of killing when he got drunk; Harry Madigan, owner of the Pony Inn in Cicero, who was charged with several kidnappings and assaults during various elections; *Stubby* McGovern, a deadly hit man who bragged he never failed an assignment; Danny McFall, who despite murdering two business competitors was named a deputy sheriff; Yiddles Miller, a boxing referee and notorious overt racist, who denounced the Ku Klux Klan as a bunch of "*nigger lovers.*"

In 1919, the Colt's helped provoke a race riot that nearly destroyed the city. A Black youth swimming off a South Side beach strayed into "*white waters.*" Bathing Colts promptly stoned and drowned him. The Colts then took to the streets baiting Blacks. After nightfall they roared into the *Black Belt*, shooting Blacks on sight, dynamiting, and looting shops and homes and setting others on fire. Black veterans of the Great War seized up their service weapons and fired back. Blacks in turn destroyed property, and overturned streetcars and automobiles carrying whites. The rioting and fires continued for four days before finally burning itself out - with the help torrential rains and the National Guard.

In 1920, several members of Ragen's Colts split off to form the NFL football team, THE CHICAGO MAROONS, later known as the CHICAGO CARDINALS. That team is still an NFL franchise - The ARIZONA CARDINALS (formerly of Chicago and St. Louis). During Prohibition, the gang began bootlegging. Ralph Sheldon broke away from the gang to form his own group and soon began hijacking rival liquor shipments. While the gang came into conflict with the *Chicago Outfit* during the bootleg wars, Capone, impressed with the Colts, hired them as enforcers for the organization.

The Ragen gang was eventually absorbed into "*The Organization*" following the establishment of the *National Crime Syndicate* in 1932. Many members would later become top leaders of the Chicago crime syndicate. One athletic club member (Hamburg club) would become Mayor of Chicago and king of *The Democratic Machine* that the Colts helped establish - RICHARD J. DALEY.





WHO WAS

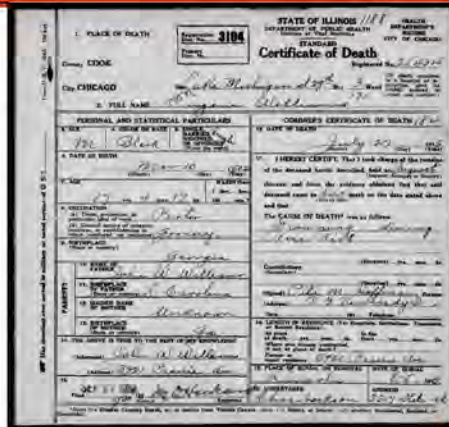
EUGENE

WILLIAMS?

BY ROBERT LOERZEL

When newspapers reported on the riot, they mentioned Eugene's name, but nothing about his story, his parents, or how his death changed their lives. This was typical of early 20th century reporting. Newspapers rarely told detailed stories about anyone's lives. In 1919, Eve L. Ewing's poems about the riot, imagines a James Crawford witness the drowning. It isn't known whether the real-life Crawford witnessed Williams' death. But he reportedly did fire a gun at police later that day. A cop killed Crawford — the second death of the riot.

BORN: MONDAY MARCH 10, 1902
MURDERED: SUNDAY JULY 27, 1919
AGE: 17 YEARS, 4 MONTHS, 3 DAYS
ADDRESS: 3921 S PRAIRIE AVE.
FATHER: JOHN W WILLIAMS
MOTHER: LUELLE WILLIAMS



The coroner described Williams as *"an athlete and expert swimmer."* In his interview, Harris - an acquaintance of Williams - present at the time of his murder said: *"None of us were accomplished swimmers, but we could dive underwater and come up. We would push the raft and swim, kick, dive, and play around. As long as the raft was there, we were safe."* The story offers a glimpse of what Eugene's life was like. *"We made a little raft, we worked on that a long time,"* Harris said. *"About four different groups of about 20 boys worked on this raft for about two months. It was a nice size - it was about 14 X 9 feet. Oh, it was a tremendous thing."* It's likely that Eugene and his friends were just looking for ways to spend their free time. They knew that white people used the 29th St. beach, while Black people used a section of beach farther north, near 25th St.

The residence of the family is difficult to pin down, but what is certain is that Luella's name appears in City Council minutes from 1923, when the aldermen voted to settle lawsuits filed by Luella and other relatives of race riot victims - paying them \$4,500 each. The lawsuit notes that Luella's son was earning \$18 a week at the time of his death - about \$460 in 2019 dollars. Luella is described as Eugene's *"only heir and next of kin, who was solely dependent upon him for her support."* Her husband died of a heart attack on March 31, 1921 - only a year and a half after his son's death. "About" 36 when he died, he was born in 1884/1885 in South Carolina, two decades after slaves were emancipated. John lived in Chicago for 12 years, arriving in 1908/1909, when Eugene, was six or seven years old. It appears that Eugene had no siblings. Census records show that Luella was born in 1888 in Georgia, but her maiden name and ancestry are a mystery.

How much racism did Eugene experience as a child in the South, and later as a youth on the South Side? Black Chicagoans faced insults, threats of violence, and even bombings when they moved into neighborhoods previously dominated by white people. Harris recalled white gangs such as Ragen's Colts attacking Black youths whenever they ventured into white territory.

When I was close to the spot where Williams's grave should be—there is no marker. Currently, there is a marker bearing Williams's name elsewhere, not far from where he died. It's on a boulder near the spot where 29th St. would hit the lakefront if it continued east of Lake Shore Drive. The plaque, created in 2009 (sponsored by students from York High School) in, is *"Dedicated to all the victims of the race riot that began near this place."* Along with a description of Williams' death and the riot, the plaque features quotations from the Reverend Martin Luther King Jr.

THE LEVEE DISTRICT

A RED-LIGHT WONDERLAND

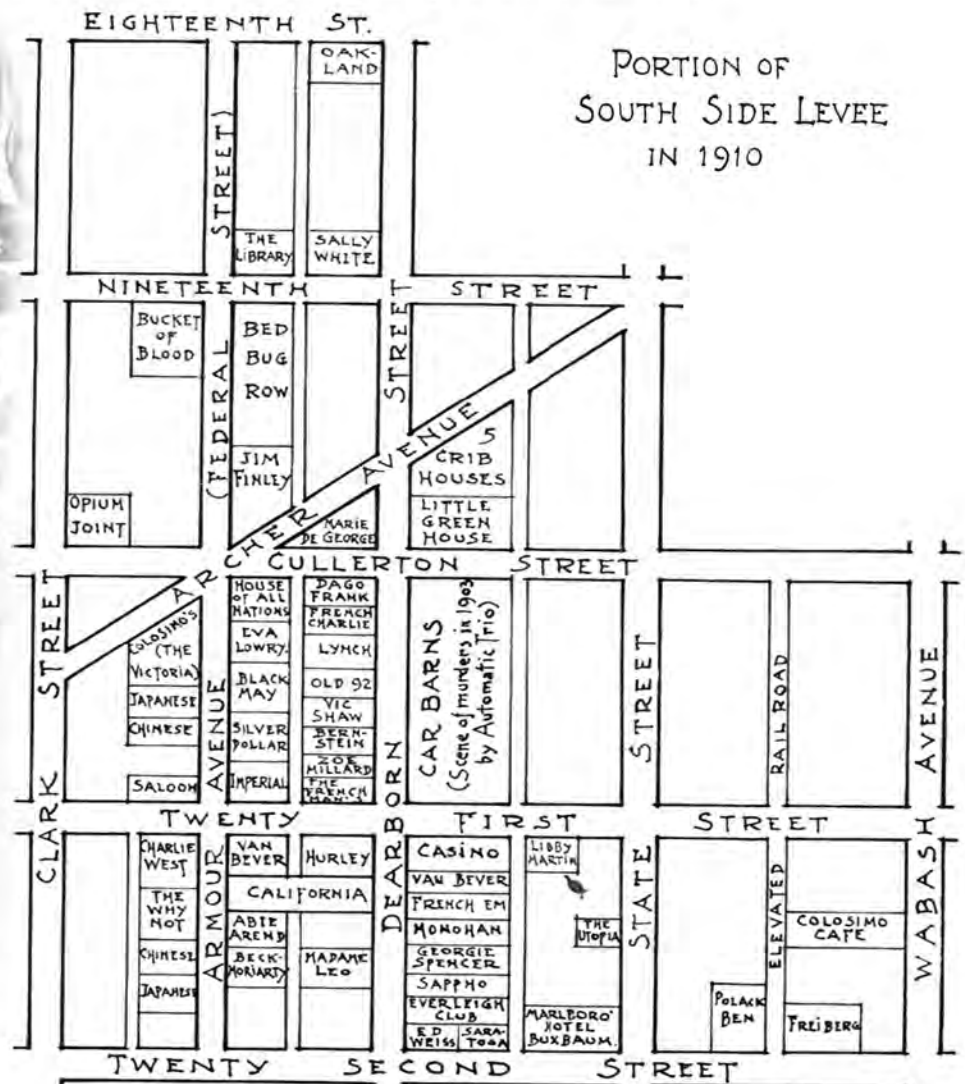
LOCATED BETWEEN 18TH AND 22D STREETS, CLARK STREET AND WABASH AVE.

Before 1890, the area known as Customs House Levee became a gathering place for players and pimps. It was one of the most notorious criminal districts in Chicago. "The Levee," as it came to be known, was home to brothels, saloons and dance halls. At it's height, it was the largest and most notorious segregated "underworld" district in America and a byword for "vice."

The lowest level of brothels were on "Bed Bug Row," spanning from Dearborn Ave. and Federal to 19th Street and Archer. The Black and Mexican women who worked there offered 25¢ services, often under poor hygienic conditions. Bed Bug Row had a similar reputation to the "Crips" in New Orleans or the "Conyards" in San Francisco. From the Levee arose the Everleigh Club operated by Ada and Minna Everleigh. The owners dared to advertise it all over the country as "Chicago's greatest attraction - next to the stockyards."

The EVERLEIGH CLUB on Dearborn Ave., was regularly frequented by the society's elite. The prostitutes - "butterflies" - earned \$100 to \$400 a week in the brothel - a phenomenal sum for the time. From this club came the contemporary phrase "I'm going to get Everleighed," which later became the colloquialism "get laid." Their fame was their downfall. The advertisements of their resorts angered Mayor Harrison, who in 1911 forever shuttered the club. It was not long afterward that the whole district was closed by State's Attorney John E. W. Wayman.

Though "officially" closed at the time of our story. The Levee District is alive and well in the memory and practices of our world.



JACK JOHNSON

HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMP 1908-1915



Jack Johnson, the First Black Heavyweight Champion, held his title from 1908-1915. Born in Galveston Texas, he began fighting in unsanctioned, underground boxing contests held in back alleys, bar rooms, the beach, private boxing clubs, and the streets of Galveston. Boxing was still illegal in those days and there was still no organized amateur boxing program in Galveston, so these bouts served as his “*amateur career.*” Johnson said this about his time in his life: “*I took up boxing, not with any intention of engaging in it as a profession, but because it seemed necessary for me to learn something of the science in order to pit myself against the fighting groups with whom I associated.*”

Johnson made his professional debut in 1898, beating Charley Brooks by knockout in the third round, earning what was called “*The Texas State Middleweight Title.*” By 1899 he moved to Chicago, where boxing was thriving, to take on all comers. He also worked as a sparring partner to make ends meet. He won the title by knocking out champion Tommy Burns in Sydney on December 26, 1908, and lost it on a knockout by Jess Willard in 26 rounds in Havana on April 5, 1915. Until his fight with Burns, racial discrimination had limited Johnson’s purses and opportunities. As the First Black Champion, a hue and cry for a “*Great White Hope*” produced numerous opponents.

At the height of his career, the outspoken Johnson was excoriated by the press for his flashy lifestyle and for having twice married white women. He further offended white America in 1910 by knocking out former champion James J. Jeffries, who had been induced to come out of retirement as a “*Great White Hope*”. The Johnson-Jeffries bout, which was billed as the “*Fight of the Century,*” led to nationwide celebrations by African Americans that were met

by violence from whites, resulting in more than 20 deaths across the country. In 1913 Johnson was convicted of violating the Mann Act by transporting Lucille Cameron- a white woman, his wife-to-be - across state lines for “immoral purposes.” He was sentenced to a year in prison and was released on bond, pending appeal. Disguised as a member of a black baseball team, he fled to Canada; he then made his way to Europe and was a fugitive for seven years.

He defended the championship three times in Paris before agreeing to fight Willard in Cuba. Some observers thought that Johnson, mistakenly believing that the charge against him would be dropped if he yielded the championship to a white man, deliberately lost to Willard. In 1920 Johnson surrendered to U.S. marshals; he then served his sentence, fighting in several bouts within the federal prison at Leavenworth, Kansas. After his release he fought occasionally and performed in vaudeville and carnival acts, appearing finally with a trained flea act. He wrote two books of memoirs, *Mes Combats* (in French, 1914) and *Jack Johnson in the Ring and Out* (1927; reprinted 1975).

He died in an automobile accident.

Born: March 31, 1878
Birthplace: Galveston, Texas
Died: June 10, 1946
Nickname: The Galveston Giant
Weight: Heavyweight
Height: 6 ft 1 in
Stance: Orthodox

BOXING RECORD
104 total fights,
73 wins
(40 by KO)
13 loses
10 draws
5 no contests



THE CAFÉ DE CHAMPION

CHICAGO'S LEGENDARY BLACK & TAN

The monogrammed spittoons were said to be solid silver. \$15,000 of oil paintings hung on the walls, and mosaic inlaid tile covered the floors. Its *"auspicious inaugural function"* overshadowed the Republican National Convention. The opening of Cafe de Champion at 41 W. 31st St. in Bronzeville was a cause for celebration in Chicago's Black community. Jack Johnson threw open the doors himself on that hot July evening in 1912 and the party didn't stop until the police showed up, at which point the silver spittoons were quickly stashed. But Cafe de Champion didn't last long, and its story is a bitter one of suicide and the racist targeting of its owner, a black man who got famous beating on white men and wasn't shy about his love for white women. He was known in print as *"the white man's despair"* and the challenger to his belt earned the title *"The Great White Hope."* Johnson, for his part, was not shy in giving it back, calling the white race *"vanquished, but aspiring"* to newspaper reporters while promoting the cafe's opening. He zoomed around in loud cars and was known for his patronage of the infamous Everleigh Club brothel in Chicago's largely segregated vice district. Johnson was champion of the world and he did what champions of the world do, whether polite white Chicago liked it or not.



By all accounts, the club ran smoothly from the start. Johnson's wife, Etta Johnson — a white woman — helped run the restaurant operations. White-gloved waiters in evening clothes shuffled food to the tables in the main room, near the lavish mahogany bar and to the private dining area on the second floor. The Pompeian Room, which hosted musicians and dancers, held hundreds. The Chicago Defender reported that Johnson milled around the club in good spirits, shaking the hands of white and black guests alike and even joined the band on his upright bass. But only three months after opening to fanfare, on the evening of Sept. 11, 1912, Etta committed suicide in the couple's upstairs apartment, while revelers partied below. The orchestra is reported to have kept playing as she was carried, mortally wounded from a revolver.



The authorities and the press quickly took aim at the verbose champion. The Los Angeles Times ran the headline: "HOW JACK JOHNSON TORTURED HIS WHITE WIFE," calling him a *"beast"* and a *"black brute."* That was enough to set the closure of Cafe de Champion rolling. By November, Johnson was expressly forbidden from occupying any part of the premises, including the upstairs rooms. A January 1913 Tribune story spelled out explicitly what had likely been clear all along:

"No attempt was made to put the Negro out of business until there were several near riots because of the Negro's association with a white girl, following so closely upon the suicide of his first white wife."

LARGER THAN LIFE

IDA B. WELLS-BARNETT was born in Holly Springs, Mississippi on July 16th, 1862. She was born into slavery during the Civil War. Wells enrolled at Rust College but was expelled for a dispute with the university president. In 1878, Wells-Barnett was informed that a yellow fever epidemic had hit her hometown. The disease took both of her parents and her infant brother.

After the lynching of one of her friends, she turned her attention to white mob violence. She became skeptical about the reasons black men were lynched and set out to investigate several cases. She published her findings in a pamphlet and wrote several columns in local newspapers. Her expose about an 1892 lynching enraged locals, who burned her press and drove her from Memphis. The escalating threats forced her to move to Chicago.

In 1893, Wells joined other Black leaders in calling for the boycott of the World's Columbian Exposition—accusing the exposition of locking out Blacks and negatively portraying the Black community. In 1895 she married famed Black lawyer Ferdinand Barnett. Together, the couple had 4 children. Throughout her career Wells balanced motherhood with her activism.

Wells traveled internationally, shedding light on lynching to foreign audiences. Abroad, she openly confronted white women in the suffrage movement who ignored lynching. Because of her stance, she was often ostracized by suffrage organizations in the US. Nevertheless, she remained active the women's rights movement. She was a founder of the National Association of Colored Women's Club which addressed issues in civil rights and women's suffrage. Late in her career Wells-Barnett focused on urban reform in the growing city of Chicago. She died on March 25th, 1931.



IDA B. WELLS

MAYOR WILLIAM HALE THOMPSON (1869 – 1944) like former President Trump, made promises he could not keep. He called opponents names. He belittled them. He lived for the cheers. He admired foreign foes. When he was first elected, he was already charging city workers \$3 each month, which he pocketed to fuel his political ambitions. Yes. He wanted the White House.

Several key moments in Chicago history happened while Big Bill was in charge. The 1919 race riots from July 27 to August 3 resulted in 38 deaths. Capone tried to topple Bugs Moran's North Side Gang at the February 14, 1929 shootout at 2122 N. Clark St., in what we now know as the *St. Valentine's Day Massacre*. Seven people were murdered that day. We might have colorful mayors of recent memory, but the Big Bill era and the rat show he presided over will never be matched.

William "Big Bill" Thompson, who served as mayor from 1915 to 1923 and again from 1927 to 1931, was the last Republican to serve as mayor of the "*City of Broad Shoulders*." He returned to office the second time with the support of gangster Al Capone, pledging to clean up organized crime in the city but instead targeting reformers. Upon his defeat in 1931 the Tribune leveled the harshest accusations against Thompson in an editorial: "*For Chicago Thompson has meant filth, corruption, obscenity, idiocy and bankruptcy,*" the newspaper said. "...*He has given the city an international reputation for moronic buffoonery, barbaric crime, triumphant hoodlumism, unchecked graft, and a dejected citizenship. ... He made Chicago a byword for the collapse of American civilization.*"

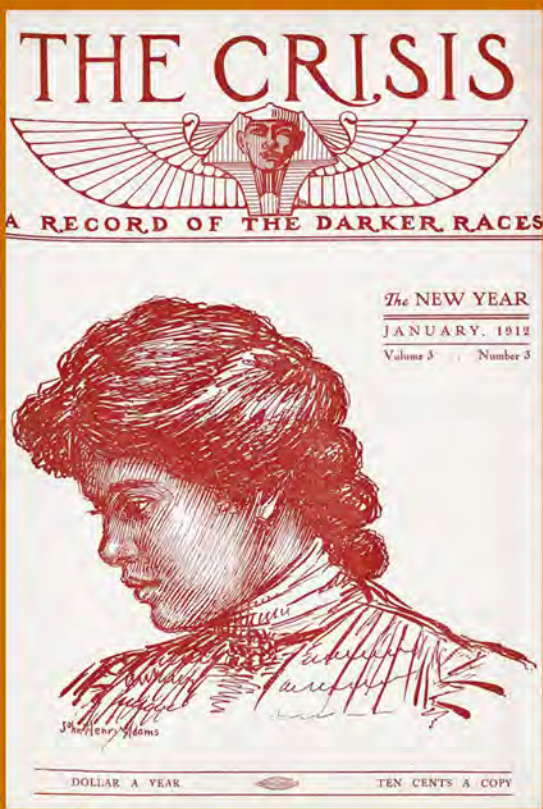
Upon his death, two safe-deposit boxes in his name containing nearly \$1.5 million in cash reportedly were discovered.



BIG BILL THOMPSON

THE NAACP

— BY RICHARD WORMSER

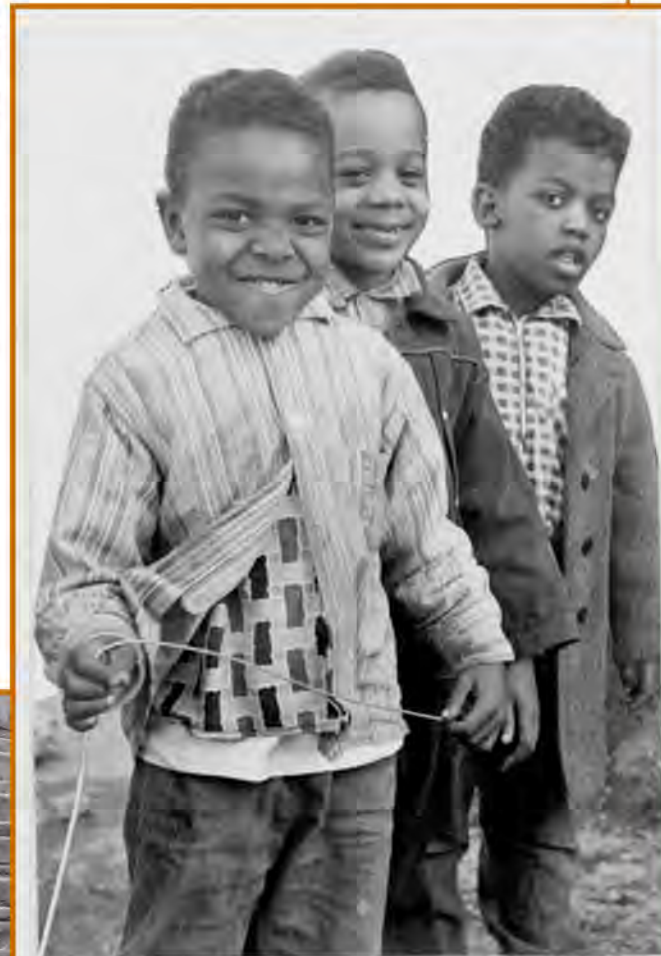


They issued what they named "The Call," a summons for civil rights activists to meet and form an organization that would fight for black civil and political rights and an end to racial discrimination. Among the founders were Ida Wells-Barnett, W.E.B. Du Bois, Henry Moscowitz, Mary White Ovington, Oswald Garrison Villiard and William English Walling.

Dr. Du Bois, a Harvard-educated black scholar then teaching at Atlanta Univ., was asked to be editor of the organization's publication. Throughout its history, THE CRISIS was the voice of the NAACP. The NAACP's goal was to fight for integration and against discrimination in all areas of American life. It challenged segregation in the federal government; raised public awareness of the pervasiveness and brutality of lynching; protested the release of THE BIRTH OF A NATION, an inflammatory motion picture denigrating Blacks and praising the Ku Klux Klan; and advocated an end to discrimination in housing, education, employment, voting, and transportation.

James Weldon Johnson was the organization's first black president. Walter White headed the NAACP from the 1930s to the 1950s. In 1934, under the leadership of chief legal counsel Charles Houston, the NAACP

planned to attack segregation in the federal courts and won several major victories. In 1939 the NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund was established independently of the NAACP to act as its legal arm. The NAACP challenged the legality of the all-white primary, segregation in higher education, and segregated interstate travel in buses. It won victories in all three cases: In 1944, the Court declared the all-white primary unconstitutional; in 1946 it banned segregation in interstate busing; and in 1954, the Court ruled that segregation in public education violated the Constitution. During the Civil Rights Movement, the NAACP organized voter registration drives and sit-ins in the South as well as initiates legal challenges in the court.



we've been drafted for active duty by the
NAACP!



PLIGHT OF THE WASHER WOMEN



The job title describes the work. But the title does little to describe what the work does to the human body. Though the world was rapidly mechanizing—the work of the washer woman had changed little since frontier times. Perhaps because much of America was still a frontier.

The process is simple enough: Clothes are soaked in hot soapy water in a washtub or sink, then squeezed and rubbed against the ridged surface of the washboard to force the cleansing fluid through the cloth to carry away dirt. Washboards may also be used for washing in a river, with or without soap. The rubbing has a similar effect to beating the clothes and household linen on rocks, an ancient method, but is less abrasive.

The cloth is then rinsed and “*wrung by hand*.” This process squeezes the moisture from the fabric by twisting the cloth in the hands such that it resembles a “*spun rope*.” This process is repeated until the dirt and detergent “*run clear*” when wrung - which may require several cycles per garment. Finally, the garments/linens are then hung out to “*air dry*” - typically on a clothes line suspended from poles, or run through pulleys from an open window (in urban areas).

To complicate matters—hand washing requires a steady supply of clean water. Indoor plumbing, and fresh running water were still considered luxuries even in middle class homes. For an impoverished washer woman, clean wash water needed to be sourced, and “*toted*” to the place where the clothes are laundered. If that is inside the home—this often involved toting the water up the narrow flights of stairs in a tenement.

Washing cloth by hand, even with the use of washboard, will quickly lead to blistering, swollen fingers, and a sore back. Elbows and wrists will soon develop the chronic conditions now termed “*tennis elbow*” and “*carpal tunnel syndrome*.” A particularly troublesome malady that is often made light of in modern times is... **Superficial cutaneous rugosity**, developing in those whose hands are immersed in water for prolonged periods, which later become dry and chapped. The chapped hands will experience a persistent debilitating burning sensation, which may be treated by home moisturizing remedies, but would simply resurface once washing duties resumed. The common (but misleading) term for this condition is “*dish pan hands*.” Over the course of a career - it was not uncommon for a washer woman to permanently lose most of the sensation in her fingers.

In the heat of the summer, often with poor ventilation, this is back breaking work. For added difficulty—imagine *air drying* clothes with the stench of the stockyards perfuming your “*product*.” If the smell dominates the garment—it will have to be washed again—before it can be returned to the owner. A good washer woman always needed to know the direction of prevailing winds—particularly on commercial wash days.



THE UNION STOCKYARDS

Killing and butchering the animals we eat has always been bloody, hard and dangerous work. Meatpacking plants at the turn of the twentieth century were more than sweatshops. They were blood shops, and not only for animal slaughter. The industry operated with low wages, long hours, brutal treatment, and sometimes deadly exploitation of the mostly immigrant workers. Not content with abuses of Labor — meat packing companies also had equal contempt for public health.

Upton Sinclair's classic 1906 novel *The Jungle* exposed real-life conditions in meatpacking plants to a horrified public. But what most shocked the popular conscience was Sinclair's portrayal of vermin, animal feces, human blood and body parts going into meat people ate, and the deceptive practices used to sell such adulterated products. Sinclair's exposé led directly to rapid passage of the *Pure Food and Drug Act* and the *Federal Meat Inspection Act* of 1906.

Chicago's Union Stockyards are but one element of a complex meat supply and packaging chain, run by robber barons on par with Rockefeller, Morgan, Carnegie and Vanderbilt. The convergence of the transcontinental railroad, the union stockyards, and the meat packing industry at the Midwest Hub of Chicago, generated corporate wealth for over a century. The stockyards and the meat packing houses they supplied allowed these family run businesses to exploit labor (both Black and Immigrant), break unions, and contribute to the squalid living conditions, racial segregation, and volatility that often resulted in deadly violence—as with the *Haymarket* riots. Tens of thousands of skilled and unskilled immigrants from rural and small town America, from Europe, Germany, Russia, and Italy came to work in the stockyards.

Blacks were used most extensively during labor shortages - typically in wartime or during the ubiquitous labor disputes of the era. Blacks were almost exclusively non-union labor. In the battles that would rage in Chicago for a half-century, the Negro was uniquely positioned to be used as a pawn by Management and Union alike. Even with this as the backdrop, the stockyards were vital to the economy of Black Chicago. Negroes had to beg for the most menial of jobs — for the honor of being treated worse than the characters in Upton Sinclair's novel, or the livestock that they tended.



The stockyards were the icon and essence of 1890's Chicago — "*Hog butcher for the world.*" Cattle, sheep, and pigs were brought in to await slaughter. Meanwhile the stench of their "*organic waste*" fouled the air, the ground, and contaminated local waterways. Closed for more than 50 years the "*Back of the Yards*" neighborhood still occasionally reeks from the noxious vapors that continue to emanate from the ground of the former UNION STOCKYARDS.

Headlines from 1919

Public Notice! SPANISH INFLUENZA

IT'S "FLU" with PNEUMONIA

Undoubtedly the Highest Qualifications (backed by the experience of Medical Men and Actual Users) are possessed by NICHOLAS' "ASPRO" TABLETS.

185,440 people die in the third wave of the Flu Pandemic.



Rotary dial telephones are introduced by AT & T.



Albert Einstein's theory of general relativity is confirmed when the Royal Astronomical Society sees the predicted effect during a solar eclipse

83 Negroes are lynched—many of them soldiers returning home from the Great War. At the same time, the Ku Klux Klan is operating in 27 states. The pamphlet, *Thirty Years of Lynching in the United States: 1898-1918* is published by the NAACP. The report is used to appeal to lawmakers to end the social, political and economic terrorism associated with lynching.



The adoption of constitutional amendments giving women the vote and establishing Prohibition denoted the high-water mark of the moral impulses of the Progressive era.

The pop-up toaster, short wave radios, and arc welders were invented in the US in 1919.



January 6 – Theodore Roosevelt, the 26th President of the United States, dies in his sleep at the age of 60.

January 16 – The 18th Amendment to the United States Constitution, authorizing Prohibition, goes into effect .

February 5 – Charlie Chaplin, Mary Pickford, Douglas Fairbanks, and D.W. Griffith launch United Artists in an attempt to control their own work.

February 26 – An act of the United States Congress establishes most of the Grand Canyon as a United States National Park.

March – The Red Scare begins - Vladimir Lenin starts a revolution in Russia that changes the government to communism. As a result, the U.S. passed an act that would blacklist anyone that had been thought to be involved with communism.

April 30 – Several bombs are intercepted in the first wave of the 1919 United States anarchist bombings.

May 1 – The May Day Riots of 1919 - Cleveland

Headlines from 1919 cont'd

- May 10** – Following postwar social tensions related to the demobilization of veterans of the Great War and competition for jobs among whites and blacks, the first race riot of what became known as **Red Summer** occurs in Charleston, South Carolina.
- June 2** – In seven U.S. cities, eight mail bombs are sent to prominent figures as part of the anarchist bombings. All eight bombs exploded within approximately 90 minutes of one another, rocking some of the biggest urban areas in America.
- June 4** – Congress approves the 19th Amendment, which would guarantee suffrage to women, and sends it to the U.S. states for ratification.
- June 15** – Pancho Villa attacks Ciudad Juárez. When the bullets begin to fly to the U.S. side of the border, two units of the U.S. 7th Cavalry Regiment cross the border and repulse Villa's forces.
- June 28** – Treaty of Versailles is signed and ends The Great War.
- July 2** – Cost of a first-class stamp rises from 2¢ to 3¢.
- July 6** – The British dirigible R34 lands in New York, completing the first crossing of the Atlantic by an airship.
- July 21** – The Wingfoot Air Express catches fire over downtown Chicago; two passengers, one crew member, and 10 people on the ground were killed. Two others were able to parachute to the ground safely.
- July 27** – The Chicago Race Riot of 1919 begins when a white man threw rocks at a group of four black teens on a raft.
- August 11** – The first NFL team for Wisconsin (the Green Bay Packers) is founded by Curly Lambeau.
- August 30-31** – After a three-way splintering of the Socialist Party of Am., the leadership of the remaining 30,000 members of the Right Wing of the Socialist party continues their national convention in Chicago, Illinois. The leadership of the 10,000 native-born English-speaking members of the Left Wing forms the Communist Labor Party of America on August 31.
- September 9** – About three-quarters of the Boston police force goes on strike. Massachusetts Governor John Calvin Coolidge acts quickly to dismiss the strikers, saying that no one has the right to strike against public safety.
- September 10-15** – The Florida Keys Hurricane kills 600 people in the Gulf of Mexico, Florida, and Texas.
- September 21** – The Steel strike of 1919 begins across the United States. It collapsed on January 8, 1920.
- September 28** – Omaha Riot: A lynch mob besieges the police station and courthouse in Omaha, Nebraska, and lynch's alleged rapist Will Brown.
- October 1** – The Elaine Race Riot breaks out in Arkansas.
- October 2** – President of the U.S. Woodrow Wilson suffers a massive stroke, leaving him partially paralyzed. The stroke incapacitated the president, his wife controlled access, and he remained in office, though he should have been removed. He worked minimally during the remainder of his term but did approve the Palmer Raids. Essentially, the country ran without a president for nearly 18 months. The public turned on Wilson over the assault on civil liberties, The Great War, and the events of 1919, resulting in a humiliating rebuke in the 1920 election.
- October 9** – Major League Baseball - nine players from the Chicago White Sox throw the World Series to the Cincinnati Reds. It is forever known as the Black Sox Scandal with players, such as immortal Shoeless Joe Jackson, banned from the game and Hall of Fame forever.
- October 28** – Prohibition begins: Congress passes the Volstead Act over President Woodrow Wilson's veto.
- November 7** – The first Palmer Raid is conducted on the second anniversary of the Russian Revolution. Over 10,000 suspected communists and anarchists are arrested in twenty-three different U.S. cities.
- November 11** – The Centralia Massacre in Centralia, Washington results in the deaths of four members of the American Legion, and the castration and lynching of a local leader of the Industrial Workers of the World.
- November 19** – The Treaty of Versailles fails a critical ratification vote in the US Senate. It will never be ratified by the U.S.
- December 21** – United States deports 249 people, including Emma Goldman to Russia, during the Red Scare.
- December 26** – Babe Ruth is sold by the Boston Red Sox to the New York Yankees for \$125,000, the largest sum ever paid for a player at that time. The deal was announced on January 6, 1920
- December 30** – Average Grocery Price – 1 pound apples 11¢, 2 pounds roast beef 38¢, 3 pounds steak 60¢, 1 pound bread 5¢, 1 pound butter 39¢, 3 pounds chicken 19¢.



1910

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